

Week 10 TERM 3 2010

Goals for the week:

KEY COMPETENCIES: Managing our own learning is our focus for this week.

INQUIRY: Finish animations and claymations - with titles, credits and music or voiceover. These will be shared into Quicktime so students are able to take these home for viewing. These need to be finished this week so we have a clean slate for term 4.

WRITING: Finish a letter to our ePals in America. This is proving to be a challenge for most of the students as the epals are not real, yet. This needs to be finished and away this week.

NUMERACY: Cement some basic numeracy facts to those struggling with concepts. (Place value for ones, tens, hundreds & thousands, doubles to 20, 5 x's tables, problem solving using written problems).

Provide an achievable stretch basic of numeracy facts for those achieving well above cohort.

Provide maintenance for those students working at their age appropriate levels.

Introduce new games, providing a variety of interest in maths work.

Maintain the momentum of interest and excitement in playing 'Tutpup' during ICT time.

Conference with as many students as possible to enable these students to record their next learning steps in basic numeracy.

Test basic skills knowledge and assess results so that I can prepare term 4's maths activities.

READING: Provide time for sustained, quiet, uninterrupted reading time of fiction novels of the student's own choosing. Choose reading material to take home for the holiday period.

PE: Provide opportunity for students to reach an appreciation of playing a team game such as soccer and netball.

ART: Produce a realistic habitat background for the research topic using watercolours. Draw and cut out our chosen topic (NZ native bird/mammal/insect/reptile). This will require some basic research skills and knowledge.

ICT: Using the computer suite for research purposes, where we learn to ask the right questions and sift the information gained for the answers that best meet our needs. Use Comic Life to produce the information about native NZ bird/fish/insect/mammal that goes with our visual display.

REFLECTIONS:

Inquiry: Claymations have hit a brick wall. There will only be two finished claymation videos, as the clay dried out too much to work with over the weekend and some of the clay figures have fallen to bits. I have learnt that clay needs vinegar to stick two pieces together. I have also learnt not to try too much in one go!!! One of the finished claymations will be posted on our Wiki site and shows real attention to detail, with titles, credits, voiceover and music. It is faithful to the original written text, storyboard and the success criteria. The process of creating a movie has appealed mainly to the boys in the class, they

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have enjoyed the hands on approach to the clay work and creating the set, and then the computer work where they have manipulated the work to meet the success criteria. All the finished work is from the boys in the class.

ICT: Our ICT suite time this week has been used researching topics such as NZ birds, fish life or reptiles. The end result of this will be a wall/ceiling display that includes a background of the topic's natural habitat with a large drawing of the bird/reptile/mammal mounted onto the background so that it looks a bit 3Dish and a display that includes the researched material. The students are using Comic Life to collate the research material and photos.

The students are now using the wiki site to email responses to me. I have yet to explore all the possibilities of integrating this into daily routine. It remains a challenge with only 2 in-class computers and limited suite time.

Key Competencies: Managing ourselves is an integral part of learning in Room 11. My expectation is that the students will make some attempts to manage their activities and move from one activity to another with the least amount of disruption and down time. This proves to be a challenge for some as it requires control of impulsivity and a focus on beneficial classroom activities. These students need regular reminders to stay focussed. I will trial a written contract in term 4, where the students agree to produce a certain amount of work to agreed standards within a set time frame.

Writing: Students have attempted an editing process on their ePals letter. This was done on the Room 11 wiki site and they emailed their work to me. There remains further work to be done to tidy these up before posting. A work in progress - still !!!!

Numeracy: The number knowledge test has been a real pleasure to mark and assess. One year 3 student is working at year 3, 5 year 3 students are working at year 4, 6 year 3 students are working at year 5, and two year 3 students are working at year 6. Three year 4 students are working at year 5 and 5 year 4 students are working at year 6. These results show huge learning gains this year and makes the intense focus on number knowledge, facts and strategies so worth while. Now for next term!!

Reading: The students enjoy their silent reading and are experimenting with the type of novels they are checking out from the library. This shows a huge improvement in the last 2 months where there was a resistance from the boys to reading novels. They enjoy filling in their reading record cards and writing an opinion about the novel.

Classroom management: I have started using a song to indicate cleanup time at the end of the day. Currently we are using *Poi E*. When the music stops the students are expected to be on the mat with their schoolbags ready to reflect upon their learning during the day and what they might need to do overnight to be ready for the next day. We are also playing more co-operative games. These students do not work too well in groups so I instigated a buddy system for Inquiry work. These buddies will be changed approx. every two weeks and are teacher choice not student choice. So far this has worked well in our current research topic